

India

Child Protection Report

January - December 2018



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March 2019

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C. Abbreviations and Acronyms

CCI	Child Care Institution
CPMIS	Child Protection Management Information System
CIF	CHILDLINE India Foundation
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
ECM	Ending Child Marriage
MWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

D. Executive Summary

The Government of India has a wide range of laws to protect children and child protection is increasingly accepted as a core component of social development, alongside health and education. However, due to inadequate human resources capacity on the ground and quality prevention and rehabilitation services, millions of children are prone to violence, abuse and exploitation.

In the Country Programme for 2018-2022, UNICEF focuses on implementation of key child protection legislation and promotion of practices that protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation. Ending Child Marriage and Adolescent Empowerment is the priority of the Child Protection Programme in India.

In 2018, the effective implementation of child protection legislation achieved important milestones results in the delivery of child protection services including the following;

- Estimated, 375,000 children, in 14 states¹, benefitted from UNICEF engagement in promoting child care reform through strengthened child care services, prevention of family separation and enhancement of standards of care.
- Sixteen states achieved the expansion of child-sensitive services and 12 states have enhanced information management and strengthened their child protection workforce which have the potential to benefit about 270,000 children who come into contact with the justice system every year.
- For the first time, a State Government (Odisha) moved from public outcry to strong and long-term commitment with a two-year action plan to prevent child sexual abuse. The initial campaign reached 2.4 million people and more than 60,000 ²policy personnel.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has endorsed a comprehensive plan at the national level to prevent violence against children.

Collaboration with 17 state governments concentrated on strengthening the skills of the child protection workforce and district mechanisms to respond to children's care and protection needs.

At state level, UNICEF engaged with the high courts to reinforce their oversight/coordination functions and with state governments in leveraging existing financial resources from various departments for child protection.

At national level, the partnership with the Supreme Court of India galvanised commitment to child protection reform through state, regional and national level policy dialogue and oversight. The annual round tables on juvenile justice, care and protection of children mobilized the following stakeholders at state level to improve access to justice and child protection services: high courts, the police department, the Department of Social Welfare/Women and Children, State Commission for the Protection of Children and the State Legal Services Authority.

¹ Government MIS

² Police Department, Govt. of Odisha

Sustained efforts were made to support the justice system to be more sensitive to children in need of care and protection and those who have committed offences. In total, nine states established or are establishing 76 child-friendly courts at district level and seven states have set up Child-Friendly Police Stations which have enhanced skills to handle sexual abuse of girls and boys. UNICEF is working with partners to go beyond infrastructure improvements by concentrating on the actual treatment of children and their referral to support services, particularly for girl survivors of child sexual abuse who constituted most of the cases reported to Police.

Dialogue and technical assistance led to improvements in information management, monitoring and oversight mechanisms. With UNICEF support, 12 states are developing or enhancing Information Management Systems that are increasingly capable of monitoring the performance of child protection services and, in two states, case management. Eight states have systematic social audit plans and inspection committees of child care institutions with potential to prevent and redress child abuse and neglect in residential care.

Six States are developing one-stop centres primarily for girls and women, or specialized services, including free legal aid, medical, counselling, case management, and de-addiction centres, to assist children in need of care and protection. Overall 14 states are developing plans for non-institutional alternative care, with sponsorship and foster care approaches in at least two states and two states are piloting restorative justice.

In partnership with MWCD, a national initiative to prevent violence against children (VAC) was launched. This will include a large-scale child safety programme across 100 districts (out of 712) and a multi-media campaign. Sexual abuse of girls and boys are differentiated in the communication campaign. This is the first-time prevention of VAC is present on a large scale in the policy agenda. At state level, the Chief Minister of Odisha and the police department, with UNICEF support, launched a 15-day campaign across the State to address child sexual abuse. This was the first time in India a State government moved from public outrage to strong and long-term commitment to prevent child sexual abuse, mobilizing several government departments, media and civil society. The 'Paree Paien Katha Tiye' (A word for Little Angels), mobilized more than 60,000 police personnel, using vehicles with multimedia tools including folk media to reach out to close to 1.2 million people directly and 1.2 million people through social media. The State has committed to two- year plan to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse.

Adolescent empowerment and Ending Child Marriage (ECM) initiatives cut across all of UNICEF outcome areas. In 13 States, UNICEF contributed to translate the commitment to end child marriage into actions with the following key results:

- 5 million boys and girls active in adolescent groups, reached with access to information and life skills training.
- 1.9 million parents and community members benefitted from social and behavioural change communication to end child marriage and promote adolescent empowerment.

At national level, after the launch of the global partnership Generation Unlimited, UNICEF's Executive Director participated in the development of Yuwaah, a national partnership with and for young people, bringing together key stakeholders. UNICEF is currently working with a group of committed partners to translate some of the proposed solutions into action and it will address issues related to child marriage.

MWCD with UNICEF technical assistance strengthened two national programmes to promote adolescent empowerment and end child marriage. These enhancements are helping implementation in 640 districts out of 712 through a package of interventions at district level, including training, communication initiatives and monitoring systems. In six states, multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms have been established under the Chief Secretary and District Administration to build multi-sectoral convergence for adolescent empowerment and ending child marriage.

UNICEF supported costed and resourced state plan of actions developed in two states and are being drafted in five more states. The Chief Minister of Jharkhand launched the costed state plan of action to end child marriage with a value of USD 50 million per year for five years, with technical collaboration from UNICEF and will be reaching one million girls.

In Bihar, the State government in partnership with UNICEF launched initiatives to: (i) strengthen capacities of 9,500 volunteers and 38,000 front-line workers, aiming to reach 1 million adolescents; (ii) establish a state adolescent cell for coordination; (iii) implement state/district plans of action, (iv) form 40,000 adolescent girls' and boys' groups at community level with 4,800 already formed and (v) implement communication campaigns.

E. Strategic Context of 2018

In 2018, three major issues captured the headlines in national and international media subsequently impacting the public opinion, statutory child protection bodies and civil society: child sexual abuse, maltreatment and sexual exploitation of children in residential care and the plight of children affected by protracted conflict in various parts of India.

India experienced a moment of national reawakening on the issue of child sexual abuse. This was the result of media reports on horrific incidents of sexual abuse and sometimes murder. In January, the abduction, gang rape and murder of an eight –year-old from a nomadic community in the state of Jammu and Kashmir shocked public opinion. The government reacted by amending the law and approving the death penalty for child rapists.

A social audit of child care institutions conducted by the Government of Bihar revealed sexual exploitation, and systematic abuse of 35 girls and the alleged murder of two more girls. Media reported sexual abuse and neglect in child care institutions/boarding schools across the Country.

The tragic incidents of child sexual abuse led to calls for prevention, reintegration and reform of the child care services in India. The Supreme Court of India issued several orders for the protection of children in residential care. The central government launched a national initiative 'Safe Neighbourhood' to prevent violence against children.

The horrific cases of child sexual abuse showed the systemic weakness of child protection services in India as well as the persistence of a culture of silence and impunity. Empirical studies conducted by UNICEF and partners in three states have identified several impediments to the effective implementation of the law, ranging from the lack of special courts, support to survivors and perceived hostility or insensitivity at various stage of the proceedings.

Available data demonstrate three important facts: (i) child abuse mainly occurs at the hand of people close to the victim; (ii) disposal of cases may take years and conviction rate are low; (iii) there's enough evidence to think child sexual abuse is underreported, reported cases only reflect a small fraction of the actual prevalence and incidence of child sexual abuse. Data published by Police indicate that in 94.6 per cent of reported cases of rape, penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sexual assault on children, the perpetrator was known to the victim. Analysis of data produced by Police also shows that only 11 per cent of the open cases of child rape in 2016 (57,754) have been disposed within the time required by law and only 29.6 per cent of the disposed cases led to conviction.

Protracted conflicts which do not fall under the conventional definitions of emergency or armed conflict continued to have a devastating effect in the lives of children.

According to sources, 31 children were killed in the State of Jammu and Kashmir (including 4 girls) in 2018 in a context of protracted conflict. 17 children were alleged killed during armed forces' operations, 7 children were killed due to shelling across the Line of Control, 4 died during explosions, 2 were killed in cross firing and 1 child was killed by militants. At least 150 children were reported injured during law enforcement operations. Armed groups operating in the Kashmir region have been involved in the recruitment of children, some of whom were killed during clashes with the Indian security forces.

Children continued to be killed and injured in the context of clashes between the security forces against Naxalites in the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha. As of 30 June 2018, the Ministry of Home Affairs reported 90 civilians killed, although no disaggregation of children was available. Reports of systematic recruitment of children by Naxalites continued to emerge in testimonies of former Naxalite cadres who have since surrendered, police statements and direct reports by community members.

F. Results Achieved in the Sector

1- Strengthening preventive and responsive child protection services

Output 1: By 2022, child protection systems and structures have adequate human and financial resources, institutional capacity, monitoring and data management ability in selected states to deliver preventive and responsive child protection service

A key area of work for UNICEF is to strengthen and advocate for effective delivery of preventive and response child protection services in selected states. Working in coordination with the Government of India, 17 state governments and civil society organizations, UNICEF is creating the building blocks of a child protection system, including financial and human resources, financial institutions, delivery of programmes and monitoring and evaluation. It is the development of a specialized child protection workforce and improving quality of data and evidence to strengthen capacity and accountability mechanisms that will prevent child sexual abuse. Immediate local concerns such as child trafficking, missing children and some forms of severe child labour are used as an entry point for system strengthening. In states with some existing level of child protection staff, the emphasis is on sustained financing models to improve quality of services.

Those are the key results obtained in 2018:

16 states achieved expansion of child-sensitive services, 12 enhanced information management, strengthened their child protection workforce with the potential to reach children in contact with the justice system every year. Government endorsed a comprehensive plan to prevent violence against children which targets 36.44 million children in a phased manner. 9 States have established or are establishing 76 child-friendly courts at district level and 7 states have set up Child Friendly Police Stations at large scale; a critical step to make justice systems more accessible to children supported by specialised services.

Policy dialogue and technical assistance led to improvements in information management systems (IMS), monitoring and oversight mechanisms in 12 states. In Bihar, regular monitoring of cases before Juvenile Justice Board through effective use IMS has led to 34% reduction in pendency rates³.

In partnership with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, a national initiative to prevent violence against children (VAC) has been launched. This includes a large-scale child safety programme across 100 districts, and a multi-media campaign targeting 36.44 million children in a phased manner. This is the first-time prevention of VAC is present at large scale in the policy agenda. The campaign puts special emphasis on addressing gender discrimination and gender-based violence in public and private settings.

At state level, the Chief Minister of Odisha and the Police Department, with UNICEF support, launched a large scale 15 days' campaign state-wide to address child sexual abuse (CSA). This was the first time in India a state government moves from public outrage to long-term commitments to prevent CSA. The *Paree Paien Katha Tiye* (A word for Little Angels), mobilised more than 60,000 police personnel, using multimedia tools to reach out to close to 1.2 million people directly and 1.2 million people through social media⁴. The state has committed to 2-year plan to prevent and respond to CSA.

UNICEF completed a capacity needs assessment of the Child Line India Foundation which is the largest network of first responders in child protection, covering 473 out of 722 districts and 84 Railway stations with a network of 886 NGO partners and close to 10,000 frontline workers who annually respond to 10 million calls from children in distress⁵. The assessment indicated need to focus more on skills development, mentoring of frontline workers and better understanding of issues such as child online safety; informing the design of a four-year capacity building programme.

Collaboration with 15 state governments concentrated on strengthening the skills of the child protection workforce with the aim to improve service delivery to vulnerable children. All modules for capacity building of child protection workforce put special emphasis on gender sensitization and have a separate chapter as an integral part of it.

³ Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) operational in Bihar

⁴ Police Department, Govt. of Odisha

⁵ Childline India Foundation (CIF) database

UNICEF undertook decisive steps to institutionalize capacity building in National Law Universities, Policy Academies and Public Administration Institutes with a focus on skills development, mentoring and establishing practice standards.

Partnership with the Supreme Court of India galvanised commitment to child protection reforms. Regular regional and state reviews assessed performance in the implementation of child protection legislation, identified challenges and elaborated action plans. UNICEF also engaged with the High Courts to reinforce their oversight/coordination functions and with the State government in leveraging existing financial resources from various departments for the protection of children.



Photo credit – ©UNICEF/2018

4th Annual Roundtable on Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) organized in Delhi

The effective implementation of child protection legislation reached important milestones in the delivery of child protection services through multi-level interventions at national, state and district levels. Progress against 2018 targets, though, are constrained in 3 out of 6 indicators.

The main building-blocks of this output (workforce, institutional framework, financial resources, policies, monitoring and oversight) are informed by a systems approach. A service-led approach is dominant in the sector where the focus is on the establishment and functioning of statutory bodies, frequently neglecting the protection needs of children. UNICEF should put more emphasis in ensuring system strengthening is clearly a means to an end, leading to better outcomes for children. This concerns prevention programmes and support to healing and recovery for survivors of violence and exploitation. The programme recommends the inclusion of a new output on preventing and responding to violence against children.

2- Promoting non-institutional alternative care

Output 2: By 2022, key stakeholders have capacity to develop, implement and monitor family/community-based care for prevention and rehabilitation of children in contact with the law, children without family care and those who are victims of violence or exploitation.

The second area of work of the Child Protection programme in India concentrates on strengthening services that prevent family separation and institutionalization. Improved case management that considers the need for alternative care and selects the most appropriate care for children aims at reducing the supply of residential care and the placement of children in institutions as the first resort. UNICEF conducts capacity-building programmes of residential-care institutions to conduct family reunification and after-care support programmes. Essential interventions include developing pilots for foster care and design of sub-national policies for

family-based care. Wherever possible, the programme links with social protection schemes as a strategy to strengthen families and reduce the demand for residential care.

Those are the key results obtained in 2018:

14 states UNICEF engaged in promoting child care reform for children out of family care in India. Sponsorship and foster care guidelines in 8 states approved for implementation. Inspection committees formed in 11 states aiming to monitor the compliance of standards of care in institutions and identifying systematic child abuse.

In 2018, UNICEF engaged in systemic reform, strengthening care services for girls and boys and prevention of family separation. 14 states developed plans for implementation of non-institutional alternative care and 2 states are piloting restorative justice. With technical support by UNICEF, guidelines for implementation of sponsorship and foster care programmes were drafted in 10 states and at the central level. Of these, 8 states have approved for implementation, aimed at will enabling non-institutional family-based services for children.

Inspection committees formed in 11 states aiming to monitor the compliance of standards of care in institutions and identifying systematic child abuse with UNICEF's technical inputs. The states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, commissioned social audits of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) with UNICEF technical guidance. Based on the assessment, indicators are being developed to monitor quality and standards of care in CCIs in all districts. The Bihar report has revealed serious gaps in services provided to children. As a result, the Government is now focused on gatekeeping and building capacities of functionaries with a specific focus on taking a differentiated approach to address violence against girls and boys.

UNICEF played an advisory role to the government for the online registration system for CCIs in Maharashtra, making it possible to have transparency on the number of CCIs. 713 have registered covering 18,500 children.

UNICEF focused on capacity enhancement of child protection functionaries on non-institutional alternative care through mentoring and support. Till date, 5532 functionaries and officials in 11 states have been trained aiming at improving the quality of service delivery and is already making an impact. In Odisha, 3595 children were integrated back to their families; 2758 de-institutionalized; and 470 placed with fit person/institutions. In Jharkhand, 531 children identified for sponsorship and 50 for foster care⁶.

Uttar Pradesh government disbursed INR. 8.2 million for Sponsorship and Foster Care and 101 children benefited under this Sponsorship Scheme while 2190 more were identified. The Department of Women and Child Development, Uttar Pradesh Police and National Skill Development Corporation collaborated for rehabilitation of children in institutions through imparting skill development programs. It is expected that 11,000 children will be trained to facilitate employment opportunities. In the first phase the programme reached 3000 children in 10 districts.

A study on after care services provided to youth leaving institutions is nearing completion in 4

⁶ Government MIS/Databases

states in partnership with Udayan Care. This will enable an understanding on the mechanisms that exist and the gaps in services. The evidence will inform plans and contribute towards improvement in quality of after care services.

NGO Udayan Care, with support from UNICEF, organised the 3rd Biennial International Conference 'Evolving trends in Alternative Care for Children in South Asia,' gathering over 300 participants from 17 countries. This resulted in formulation of concrete steps to promote family strengthening, gatekeeping, standards of care, deinstitutionalization and influence policy decisions on non- institutional care.

3- Ending child marriage and empowering adolescents

Output 3: By 2022, key stakeholders have the capacity to engage children and adolescents (girls and boys), parents and community influencers through advocacy, sustained social and behaviour change communication for adolescent empowerment and to prevent child abuse, violence and exploitation

In 13 States, UNICEF contributed to translate commitment to end child marriage into actions such as costed and funded action plans and consolidation of social protection schemes. The programme reached 5 million adolescent girls and boys, 1.9 million parents and community members through social and behavioural change communication programmes⁷.

Ending Child Marriage (ECM) gained momentum at national level and across 13 states through political commitment, redesigned cash transfer, access to education, engagement with communities, adolescent girls and boys as change agents.

At national level, UNICEF's Executive Director participated in YuWaah, a national partnership with and for young people as part of Generation Unlimited, bringing together key stakeholders from Government of India, private sector, civil society organizations, UN agencies and young people. The evidence-based solutions generated by YuWaah on factors leading to reduction of child marriage are girls' empowerment, secondary education, career guidance/access to information, flexible learning and linkages to employment.

UNICEF's technically supported Government to strengthen two national programmes: *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* and *Mahila Shakti Kendras* in 640 out of 712 districts through a package of interventions, training, communication initiatives and monitoring systems.

To formalise political commitment and accountability, two state governments developed costed and resourced state plans. Jharkhand launched the costed State Plan of Action, with UNICEF's technical collaboration, for USD 50 million per year for five years reaching one million adolescent girls and a cash transfer programme with a USD 59 million budget provision to reach 7.6 million girls.

In Bihar, State government in partnership with UNICEF launched (i) strengthening of capacities

⁷ Government MIS/Databases

of 9,500 volunteers called Vikas Mitra and 38,000 front-line workers, aiming to reach 1 million adolescents;(ii) establish a State adolescent cell; (iii) implement state and district plans of action with the formation of Task Forces (iv) form 40,000 adolescent girls' and boys' group and (v) implement communication campaign.

In Uttar Pradesh, UNICEF scaled up ECM interventions from 7 to 20 districts, resulting in establishment of community platforms across 25 per cent districts, linking to 16,000 local governance councils.

The programme reached 5 million girls and boys through adolescent groups, participation, access to information and life skills training. UNICEF reached 1.9 million parents and community members through social and behavioural change communication⁸. Stories of change and voices of adolescent girls and boys were amplified through media partnerships. Key influencers mobilized to give visibility for adolescent issues, reaching 30 million. Overarching strategy was to shift perception of adolescents as objects of concern to active partners. This meant recognizing participation as entitlement and cross-cutting principle. To support adolescents, following platforms aimed at providing: Space, Voice and Audience. They were engaged through groups and peer educator's sessions with fellow peers, life-skills, inter-gender dialogue, rights-based discourse, folklore and tools, promoting enrolment, attendance & school completion, linkages to government schemes. While the parents & community members were engaged through group meetings, intergenerational dialogue, mid media activities such as street plays & film shows to mobilize especially marginalized communities and ones with >50 per cent prevalence of Child Marriage in the districts.



18-year-old Ashrita Kerketta & adolescent girls from the Adolescents Girls empowerment group in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

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Developed evidence generation plan to define what works at scale, resulting in knowledge products to inform UNICEF's policy advocacy: (i) an overview of prevalence trends, burden and possible drivers of change (ii) summary of findings from high intensity ECM programmes in four districts.

UNICEF transition to large scale programming required three important shifts: from NGO implementation to government multi-agency delivery; from high-intensity community work to light-touch interventions; from UNICEF funding to leveraging public resources and building new partnerships. The programme has identified following adjustments in programme strategies and actions which will address some of the implementation constraints observed. Concentrate in district and sub-district level implementation. The programme has been successful in generating political commitment to end child marriage, creating spaces for collective action and dialogue. The efforts should now focus on the capacity to implement at local level. New technical partnerships are in place to support that effort. The impressive progress in the promotion of social protection programmes to incentivise girls' education should now be a new phase focusing on

⁸ Government MIS/Databases

plus elements such as access to services, community mobilisation and social and behavioural change communication. Generation Unlimited has created new and promising venues to invest in the education, training and employment of young people. The current ending child marriages initiatives should be connected to alternatives and opportunities for adolescent girls.

UNICEF India has a niche role in convening critical stakeholders around a platform that addresses multiple deprivations and support adolescent girls and boys to build skills for life and livelihood. The role of UNICEF in India is unique, our resources are insignificant compared to the sheer size of the country. Despite this, the demand for UNICEF support is constantly increasing. Central and state governments value UNICEF work for the ideas and expertise. There is a need for critical partnerships and leverage existing public and private resources. Ending child marriage can be achieved through partnerships and coordination at various levels, not just within government but across non-traditional partners. To operationalise these strategies, UNICEF has large scale, multi-state technical partnerships with state government and district administrations to work with adolescent girls and boys, parents, community structures and front-line workers. This is the evolving role of NGOs for direct implementation, as technical partners with Government and bringing together the CSO alliance. This has drastically reduced the costs for UNICEF and increased the coverage. UNICEF developed package of intervention to support the district administration to operationalise the plans and this includes planning, budgetary analysis, costing, budgeting, capacity building, advocacy and communication packages, adolescent participation and monitoring and learning.

G. Financial Analysis

Table 1: Planned Budget for by Thematic Sector (Child Protection) 2018 (in US Dollars)

Output	Results Area	Fund Sub-Category	Planned BUDGET 2018
401 Strengthening Preventive and Responsive CP Systems	23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	ORR	4,709,630
		RR	2,440,013
402 Family/Community Based Care for Prevention of Separation and Rehabilitation	23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children 23-03 Access to justice	ORR	1,948,829
		RR	1,550,733
403 Social and Behavior Change Communication for Adolescent Empowerment &To Prevention	23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children 23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage) 25-03 Adolescent empowerment 26-03 Cross-sectoral Communication for Development	ORR	5,985,174
		RR	1,677,733
Grand Total			18,312,112

Note: Planned amount is based on RWP provided by State offices

Table 2: Thematic Contributions Received for Thematic Pool X by UNICEF India in 2018

Donors	Grant Number	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
Belgian Committee for UNICEF	SC1899050009	209,997.78	199,997.89
Total		209,997.78	199,997.89

Table 3: 2018 Expenditures in the Thematic Sector (Education) (in US Dollars)

Output	Results Area	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	Grand Total
401 Strengthening Preventive and Responsive CP Systems	23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children		2,772,815	3,196,682	5,969,497
402 Family/Community Based Care for Prevention of Separation and Rehabilitation	23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children		109,285	502,380	611,665
	23-03 Access to justice		629,692	523,478	1,153,170
403 Social and Behaviour Change Communication for Adolescent Empowerment & To Prevention	23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	144,774	795,417	220,579	1,160,770
	23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)		827,425	588,957	1,416,382
	25-03 Adolescent empowerment		843,534	704,177	1,547,711
	26-03 Cross-sectoral Communication for Development		505,095	449,046	954,141
Grand Total		144,774	6,483,262	6,185,299	12,813,336

Table 4: Thematic Expenses by Results Areas (in US Dollars)

Results Areas	Expense (ORR)
	NIL
Total	NIL

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes

Specific Intervention Code	Total Expenses
23-01-01 Legal and policy framework related to violence, exploitation and abuse	14,472
23-01-02 Services to prevent or respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	1,297,081
23-01-05 Social welfare workforce systems strengthening (accreditation, staffing and supervision)	2,626,177
23-01-06 Public finance management for child protection	107,311
23-01-07 Administrative data and Information Management System (IMS)including CPIMS+, GBVIMS+, MRMIMS+	481,158
23-01-13 Child Protection - Emergency Preparedness	24,958
23-01-20 Protective services for children on the move	1,223,406
23-01-22 Inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration on violence, exploitation and abuse	461,573
23-01-23 Child Protection humanitarian AoR/humanitarian sector coordination	144,774
23-01-99 Technical assistance - Prevention and response services for violence against children	1,361,023
23-02-01 Services related to child marriage	15,526
23-02-03 Social and behaviour change communication for child marriage	433,866
23-02-06 Harmful practices - planning, co-ordination and programme monitoring	901,184
23-02-98 Technical assistance - Child marriage	65,806
23-03-01 Promoting diversion and alternatives to deprivation of liberty	22,416
23-03-03 Access to child-friendly police and justice sector services	28,061
23-03-05 Alternative care reform and service provision	1,059,851
23-03-06 Justice, birth registration/CRVS, and alternative care - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	42,842
25-03-03 Children and adolescent participating in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNICEF programmes	425,262
25-03-04 Development of multi-sectoral legislation/policies/strategies/action plans supporting development and participation of adolescents	1,122,448
26-03-01 Advocacy and partnership-building for social behaviour change	954,141
Grand Total	12,813,336

Table 6: Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2019 (in US Dollars)

Output	Results Area	Fund Sub-Category	Planned BUDGET 2019	Allocation	Shortfall
401 Strengthening Preventive and Responsive CP Systems	23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	ORR	4,600,630	2,149,441	2,451,189
		RR	2,266,013	3,278,042	(1,012,029)
402 Family/Community Based Care for Prevention of Separation and Rehabilitation	23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	ORR	1,958,829	1,092,718	866,111
	23-03 Access to justice	RR	1,600,733	814,496	786,237
403 Social and Behavior Change Communication for Adolescent Empowerment & To Prevention	23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	ORR	6,085,174	5,353,438	731,736
	23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)				
	25-03 Adolescent empowerment				
	26-03 Cross-sectoral Communication for Development	RR	1,385,733	2,309,388	(923,655)
Sub-total Other Resources Regular			12,644,633	8,595,597	4,049,036
Sub-total Regular Resources			5,252,479	6,401,926	(1,149,447)
Grand Total			17,897,112	14,997,523	2,899,590

Note: Planned amount is based on RWP provided by State offices

H. Future Work Plan

The three major opportunities for the programme are:

i) The development of a large-scale programme to end prevent and respond violence against children. In 2019, a revised strategy has been agreed with government partners and civil society comprising the following components:

- Galvanizing government commitment to end violence against children
- Create Safe environment for Children in violent and deprived settings
- Creating specialized referrals and support services for child survivors
- Promote innovations to prevent violence against children

(ii) Set the foundations for a wide reform of child protection services for children without adequate family

- Mobilize stakeholders' commitment to reform

- Develop state specific models to prevent family separation and promote deinstitutionalization

(iii) Ensure emerging cash transfer programme contain a “Plus” component to empower adolescent girls. This includes linkages to services such as education, skilling that can be decisive in creating options girls at risk of getting married.

I. Expression of Thanks

Thematic funding is a reflection of donors’ understanding that increased flexibility and less earmarking allows UNICEF to prioritize fund allocations according to where they are needed most. It also acknowledges UNICEF’s position in providing upstream technical advice which can only effectively be done with the backing of flexible funding. In return, UNICEF India is committed to achieving high implementation levels, innovative programming and high-quality reporting on results.

J. Annexes: Human Interest Stories and Donor Feedback Form

Purulia girls unite against child marriage in India

By Demissew Bizuwerk

Purulia, West Bengal, 24 January 2019 – 18-year-old Kiran Bauri woke up very early on the National Day of the Girl Child, hopeful and excited. Later that day, she joined 500,000 other girls and women, pouring into the streets, joining hands to form a 348 km long human chain. The human chain spread across the district stood as a testimony of their pledge to ensure equal rights for the girls and to end child marriage in the district. Kiran Bauri is a bright young girl living in one of the remote tribal blocks of India and works as a local advocate for girls’ rights in her community. Last year, when she noticed that her best friend Karuna (name changed to protect identity) was absent from school for two consecutive weeks, she knew that something was wrong. She mobilized other members of the Kanyashree club (local adolescent club that she was part of) and went to see Karuna at her home.

Kiran and her friends found that Karuna was to become a bride soon, against her will. Her parents have already arranged a marriage for her at a critical time when she was preparing for her board exam (All India Senior School Certificate Examination) in grade 12.

“Karuna had lost hope because she knew that she would not be able to continue with her education after she get married,” recalls Kiran. “But I was determined and so were my fellow Kanyashree club members that we would stop this marriage, at any cost,”



Kiran Bauri, 18, is a bright young woman and an advocate for girls right to education in her community.

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The next day, Kiran and her friends along with their teacher, brought the issue to the Panchayat's (village council) attention, who tried to convince Karuna's parents to stop the marriage. But, they refused to change their minds.

"My friend's dowry had already been paid. Besides, her parents said that they have two more younger girls in the house. That's why they were adamant. The problem is, people in my community still see girls as burdens, as problems," shares Kiran.

Kiran was getting restless as the wedding day was coming closer, but she refused to give up. Her friend's parents decided to go ahead and finally came the wedding day. While Karuna was feeling helpless and sad on the morning of her wedding day, Kiran decided to go ahead with the last option: report to the police. The local police and government authorities landed up at Karuna's place and her parents did not have any choice but to cancel the wedding.

"We were so happy to stop the marriage," says Kiran. "I was a little nervous to go to the police, but I had to do it to save my friend." Later the girls and Karuna celebrated their sweet victory by sharing chocolates.

Karuna went on to complete her school education and is currently studying in college, thanks to Kiran and her Kanyashree club friends who stood up for her.

India has the largest number of child brides in the world — one third of the global total. Yet, recent data indicates that in the last decade there has been a significant decline in the prevalence of child marriage from 47 per cent to 27 per cent of the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married before age 18 from 2005-2006 to 2015-2016 (Source: NFHS 4). This success is partly owed to the community and public engagement around the issue and the critical role played like young advocates like Kiran who has raised their voices against this age-old tradition.



Adolescent Empowerment infographic developed for stakeholders in West Bengal

Yet, there is still a long way to go. Despite the enactment of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in 2006, girls as young as 13 or 14 in many rural communities are being married off under the guise of social, religious or cultural traditions. In many communities of India even today, early marriage is more a social norm than an aberration in the eyes of many parents who see little or no value in investing in their daughters' education or empowerment.

"Poverty, weak enforcement of laws, patriarchal social norms are significant factors that increase the risk of a girl being married off while she is still a child," shares Swapnodipa Biswas, UNICEF Child Protection Officer. "In addition, the dowry system still is very common in most parts of India.

In the dowry system, the bride's family gives cash or in-kind gift to the bridegroom and his family, as a condition of the marriage. The dowry amount increases with the age and the education level of the girl. Hence, the “incentive” of the system of dowry perpetuates child marriage even further.”

UNICEF supports the Government of India’s effort to end child marriage in West Bengal and across all states in India. The support includes capacity building of law enforcement and Government officials as well as community level engagement with influential community leaders and the media. Working closely with schools and civil society organizations, UNICEF also provides crucial life skills and protection skills to adolescent girls. Through the Adolescent Empowerment Programme, UNICEF encourages adolescent girls like Kiran to mobilize and engage other girls like themselves in their schools and communities through Kanyashree Clubs and learn and support each other. Thus, creating a social network which empowers these girls to raise their voices against any child rights violation, including child marriages.

In Hutmura Harimati Girls High School, Kiran actively engages on issues that affect girls, with support from her teachers and school authorities. “The school has a critical role to play. We work closely with our students as well as the community members on a range of issues that affect our girls,” shares Chaitali Mukherjee, School Principal. “We make sure that priority is given to the girls’ education and they are given equal opportunities to stand on their own feet. We are very happy to see our girls doing so well and representing our school and Purulia at state and national levels.”

At present, Kiran is studying hard for her board exam (All India Senior School Certificate Examination) which is due in February this year. For the time being, she puts aside playing Ludo, a board game which she likes playing with her older brother Chalam in her spare time. “I want to become a lawyer,” she says. “I love solving problems. Lawyers solve problems and there are many problems which need to be solved in our community.”

Kiran stands as an inspiration for thousands of girls in her community and in Purulia who are raising their voices against the age-old tradition of child marriage and demanding equal rights to grow up to their fullest potentials.

Goodbye, Yellow Brick Road

The Adolescent Development and Participation Programme (ADAP) in the Sivasagar District of Assam, aims to empower the adolescents of Sivasagar by creating opportunities for adolescents to learn, grow and participate in their own development. The project is implemented through the District Children and Adolescent Cell (DCAC), Deputy Commissioner’s Office, Sivasagar. Under the advocacy and communication component of the programme, adolescents are trained on participatory communication initiatives such as photography and reportage to become Young Reporters. This Human-Interest Story is about two such Young Reporters who took charge to become change agents in their community, through their participation in the Gaon Panchayat meetings, advocacy with the community and engagement with service providers.

“The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible, and achieve it, generation after generation”.

Mr. Hrishikesh Gayan (15 years) and Mr. Madharjya Bora (16 years) are befitting examples of this. These two Young Reporters from Amguri development block of Sivasagar district had identified a long prevailing issue of a dilapidated road under Gayen Gaon GP. Bad roads in such remote areas can render these villages somewhat inaccessible. Additionally, they are more accident-prone due to their nature, thus putting the lives of the community members at risk. As such, both of these Young Reporters participated in a Gaon Panchayat meeting and raised the issue in front of GP president, secretary and community members. They also persuaded the villagers to allow the road to be widened and constructed so that transportation facilities of their village can be eased, a task which is easier said than done because widening the village road potentially implies giving up claim on personal land for the benefit of the community. They also effectively convinced the community members that they would all be safer if the road conditions were improved. Both the Young Reporters then approached the District Commissioner of Sivasagar, Mr. Narayan Konwar, on 15th February 2018 and submitted to him an application highlighting the condition of the road in their village. Mr. Konwar was first surprised at the initiative taken up by the two adolescents and asked them if their village does not have adults who can report this issue to the District Administration, as is generally the case with matters that require such decisions. While appreciating the initiative taken up by the young reporters, Mr. Konwar took up the initiative to start the construction of the road. The construction of road has been initiated and will be completed shortly.



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Young Reports & change agents Hrishikesh & Madharjya from Sivasagar district of Assam